

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
August 6, 2009; 12:00-2:00 pm
BHRC - 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Auditorium
Rialto, CA 92376

Commissioners Present:

Gabriel Gonzales, Christopher Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel, May Farr, Veatrice Jews, Tanya Perry, David Ford, Jane Godager, Bill Swift, Michael Hill, and Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

Excused Absence:

Tom Rivera and Jane Mercer

Guests:

Allan Rawland, Director, Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Lisha Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff, Michael Townsend, Field Representative, Fifth District, Board of Supervisors; Faith Ikeda, Michael Moreno, Carolyn Bennett, Katie Todd, Linda Ballard, Pathways to Recovery; Mayra Urena, TAY; Gerry T. Hamilton, Gary Rucker, Santa Colvin, Terry Hunsberger, Edgar Marble, Charles Moore, Cheryl Larremore, Penny Jenkins, James Dietz, Gregory Nyx, Brad Bergervin, Derek Waites, Lazaro Sanchez, TEAM House; Sergio Sanchez, Ronda Davis, David Parrilla, Amazing Place; Deshaun Edwards, Jazmin Garcia, MAPS; Hope Anderson, Mental Health Systems Success First; Christina L. Edgecombe, Family Service Agency; Armando Ontiveros, EMQ Families First; Debbie Reno-Smith, VCCS; Hanon Perez, FSA of Riverside; Catherine Albright, Laurel Freeman, Nancy Piper, FACT Telecare, Beatrice Serafin, Telecare ACT/MAPS; Sean Milligan, STAR; Lorie Bernard Eklund, Richard Louis, André Bossieux, Michael Day, Michael Knight, Bob Sudol, Michael Oliver, Dennis Terrones, Linda Porter, Doris Turner, Veronica Kelley, Laretta Ross, Mark Thomas, Pat Coffey, Douglas Fazekas, Mariann Ruffolo, Dorean Glenn, Lynn Neuenswander, Gary Atkins, Maria Coronado, Michelle Dusick, Teri Self, Lisa K. McGinnis, David Denkers, Lynn Van Gilder, Arelis John Martinez, Michael Schertell, Paula Rutten, DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chairman, David Ford called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed.

The agenda for this meeting was approved and the Public Session minutes of July 2, 2009 were adopted as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

Director Rawland asked the members of the Commission if they would like to begin using a speaker slip system as they do at the public session of the Board of Supervisors. The members of the Commission suggested that this practice may encourage more public comments. Debi Pasco will follow up with the Clerk of the Board and develop a similar form.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson David Ford was not able to attend the July 2nd Mental Health Commission meeting; however he was able to attend the CA Mental Health Local Boards and Commissions (CALMHB/C) meeting in San Jose in June. The highlight of the two-day event was the keynote speaker presentation by our own Director, Allan Rawland. Commissioner Ford received many compliments from other county members Boards and Commissions regarding how fortunate

San Bernardino County is to have such a knowledgeable and transparent Director. Commissioner Ford thanked Director Rawland and stated how proud he was to be from the County of San Bernardino.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales thanked Gary Atkins, Bob Sudol and Allan Rawland for obtaining much needed items for the Victor Valley Clubhouse. He runs the Journal Group at the clubhouse and shared a thought provoking story: The group was discussing "What if" stories and Gabriel asked, "What would you do if you found a baby in a basket on your doorstep?" The majority of the group responded, "Take it to a local hospital or turn it over to Child Protective Services (CPS). Then Gabriel asked, "What would you do if you found an alien baby in a basket complete with instructions?" The group responded, "Keep it!"

Second District:

Commissioner May Farr, Second District, attended the NAMI Conference in San Francisco where Stella Marks, well-known for her work in reducing stigma was the keynote speaker. The TV series "House" includes many episodes about mental illness. NAMI sold \$100,000 worth of T-Shirts printed with "Normal is Overrated". The NAMI Walk is scheduled for November 7, 2009 at Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet. Commissioner Farr participated in the TAY Mixer, comprised of various community agencies that provide services to TAY. They meet, communicate and collaborate to assess the needs of the TAY community and will continue to meet at TAY Centers throughout the County. She also attended the Pacific Clinics TAY Open House in Rancho Cucamonga. Over 100 persons were in attendance including the Mayor, Director Rawland and representatives from the State Assembly and Supervisor Paul Biane's office. The Morongo Basin TAY Open House is scheduled for October 2009.

Commission Michael Hill invited guests to attend the Second District Advisory Committee meeting at 1:00 pm on August 27 at Pacific Clinics in Ontario.

Third District:

Commissioner Tanya Perry stated that the Big Bear Mental Health Alliance has a new psychiatrist and a van for transporting clients. The Big Bear One Stop is up and running. Located within the building is an outpatient drug and alcohol program, as well as various county departments that provide services; Transitional Assistance Department (Cash Aid, Food Stamps and Cal WORKS), Children and Family Services, and Workforce Development. Commissioner Perry thanked all who were involved in assisting to get these much needed services on the mountain. The Big Bear Annual Family Fun Night is scheduled for September 21st.

Commissioner Christopher Massa will attend the NAMI California National Conference in Torrance on August 21-22. He will also be taking a mental health vacation to Hawaii within the next couple of months.

Fifth District:

Commissioner Veatrice Jews attended an Innovations public forum with local pastors. Their concerns were focused on dementia and persons suffering loss (job, homes, and family members). On August 3rd, the members of the African American Coalition met with Allan Rawland, Director, CaSonya Thomas, Deputy Director, and Veronica Kelley, Cultural Competency Officer to resolve some issues regarding PEI. It was a very informative meeting that produced positive outcomes.

Commissioner Jane Godager briefly shared her adventures during her mental health vacation to Norway, the land of her heritage.

Commissioner Susan McGee-Stehsel recently met with Michael Oliver, Program Manager II, for a tour of the Phoenix Clinic. She was able to observe the intake process and received educational literature on wellness, recovery and resilience. She also called the Fifth District Supervisor's Office to receive a list of participants and stakeholders to invite to the Fifth District Advisory Committee (DAC). Susan recommended that Commissioners contact their Supervisor for a similar list.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Allan stated that Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales is getting quite well known throughout the State for his artwork. Allan received the Cultural Competency Summit invitation from CiMH depicting a selection of Gabriel's artwork displayed on the front cover! This invitation was sent out to over 10,000 persons statewide. The DBH Public Information Office enlarged and framed the invitation as a gift and collector's item to Gabriel. Congratulations, Commissioner Gonzales!

Director Rawland thanked Commissioners Jews and Farr for participating in the August 3rd African American Coalition meeting. Topics discussed were the importance of trust and the flow of communication especially when an organization has changed course. DBH administrative staff will continue to meet regularly with the African American Coalition.

Two DBH programs will be honored at the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 11 as recipients of the 2009 National Association of Counties award:

- Office of Consumer and Family Affairs - Laretta Ross and Doris Turner
- Juvenile Court Behavioral Services – Judge Slough, Dr. Galan-Feather, and Faye Herrmann

FY 2009-2010 State and County Budget

DBH had reduced its budget by \$30 million in the spring of 2009 due to a 25% reduction in sales tax and vehicle license fees. We now have a budget signed by the Governor totaling \$164 million reduction to the State General Fund. DBH will now address additional reductions:

- Managed Care - \$5 million (our biggest problem area)
- State will defer AB 3632 and EPSDT payments until the end of the year (totaling \$5 million)
- Cal WORKS reduction unknown at this time (working with our local Transitional Assistance Department).
- Alcohol and Drug Program Prop 36 has been completely wiped out; eliminating all treatment for Prop 36 clients.

We will move quickly; making these reductions over the next month. We are working very closely with our contract providers and staff to maintain critical services. Diversion efforts over the last month have successfully linked clients to other resources; keeping people in the least restrictive settings.

RECOGNITION OF SUPERVISOR JOSIE GONZALES AND LISHA SMITH

Chairman David Ford presented an award to Supervisor Josie Gonzales and Lisha Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff, Fifth District, recognizing them as champions of mental health, and thanking them for their service during their delegated term on the Commission.

Supervisor Gonzales addressed the Commission and the audience with a few heartfelt comments: "Each of you should be recognized for all of the work you do in providing the necessary tools to those around you to live brighter and happier lives. Every good action has a ripple effect and I thank you!" Supervisor Gonzales congratulated Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales for having his artwork selected by the California Institute of Mental Health (CiMH) for use on promotional materials.

Director Rawland thanked Supervisor Gonzales and Lisha Smith for their continued support. He also had one last request of Supervisor Gonzales: a hard hat for Dennis Terrones, Project Coordinator for the One Stop Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Center Crisis Residential Program.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Forensic ACT (FACT) Members Assertive Possible Solutions (MAPS)

Dr. Ralph Ortiz, Deputy Director, Adult Services, stated that DBH partners with the Telecare Corporation to provide MHSA funded intensive case management to higher level of care clients. Dr. Ortiz introduced Rich Santoni who stated that the Telecare Corporation has over 40 years of experience in providing services and has inpatient programs in five states. The ACT, FACT and MAPS programs are designed to move clients out of institutions and into the community. He then introduced Beatrice Serafin of the ACT Program.

ACT

Ms. Serafin stated that ACT provides intensive case management 24/7 and wraparound services using a team approach; which include the following staff: psychiatrists, nurses, coordinator and team leader. The team works with members within their community providing what they need for empowerment; support, options, recovery goals and advocacy connections. It is the member's decision if they wish to disenroll. Telecare will link them to other services.

MAPS

MAPS has been in operation for 16 months. Some members have been able to move into their own apartment; while still receiving 24/7 wraparound services.

FACT

Laurel Freeman stated that FACT is intensive case management provided to members released from jail. Telecare has been tracking the outcome data since they began operations 16 months ago. FACT has also been in operation for 16 months and they have been tracking outcome data (provided as handouts).

- Booking jail days decreased by 63%
- Admissions to ARMC decreased by 85%

A client shared her story of recovery with the Commission and the audience.

Upcoming Special Presentations to the Mental Health Commission include:

- September 3, 2009 – Let's End Truancy (LET), Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), by Kathleen Alvarado, Deputy District Attorney, Juvenile Division.
- October 1, 2009 – Promotoras de Salud by El Sol Neighborhood Education Center
- November 5, 2009 – Disparity Access Study by Ed McField, Latino Health Collaborative, and Veronica Kelley, Cultural Competency Officer, DBH

NEW BUSINESS

- Cultural Competency Award Suggestion - Veronica Kelley, Cultural Competency Officer, requested the Commission's approval for a Cultural Competence recognition award to be presented at each public meeting of the Mental Health Commission. Nominations will be advertised in the Cultural Competence Newsletter and one recipient per month will be selected by the Cultural Competence Advisory Committee. Members of the Commission briefly discussed the item. Commissioner McGee-Stehsel asked for an amendment of this item to include a Cultural Competency category to be added to the annual Mental Health Commission Award Ceremony. This item and the amendment were both approved by the Commission.
- Mental Health Commission Report for DBH's 2009 Annual Report – This item was referred to Tanya Perry, Secretary, Mental Health Commission.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

Lazaro Sanchez, guest, asked about the recent changes to Medi-Cal. Bob Sudol, Clubhouse Supervisor, will provide Mr. Sanchez the information requested.

Santa Colvin, guest, stated that she had heard rumors that TEAM House would be closing. Ralph Ortiz, Deputy Director, calmed her concern stating that funding for all county clubhouses is still in the budget.

Hanon Perez, Family Service Association, announced that his agency is a recent contract provider for the Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention (MHSA PEI) component. The agency has older adult community centers all over the east valley region. Members of the Commission asked Mr. Perez to bring a list of his agencies sites to our next meeting. Michelle Dusick will prepare a list of our new PEI contract providers.

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS

District 1:

Commissioner Bill Swift announced the next 1st District Advisory Committee will meet at the Victor Valley Clubhouse on August 19. This meeting will focus on the MHSA Innovation Community Public Input Forums.

District 2 & 4:

Commissioner May Farr attended the 2nd and 4th District Advisory Committee at West End Family Counseling on July 22nd. This meeting focused on the MHSA Innovation Community Public Input Forums. The next DAC meeting is scheduled on August 27 from 1:00-3:00 pm at Pacific Clinics.

District 3:

Commissioner Tanya Perry announced the August 12th DAC MHSA Innovation Community Public Input Forum in Yucca Valley on August 12th from 1:00-3:00 pm.

District 5:

DAC will meet at TEAM House on August 20th from 1:00–3:00 pm featuring the MHSA Innovation Public Forum.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

David Ford
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Commission